

Message Text

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13

ACTION NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 IO-14 ISO-00 SAB-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01

PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20 USIA-15 SAM-01 OMB-01 DRC-01

NIC-01 SAJ-01 ACDA-19 AID-20 EB-11 /185 W

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R 201615Z FEB 74

FM AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6568

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST

USMISSION GENEVA

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

USINT CAIRO

USINT BAGHDAD

USINT DAMASCUS

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GENEVA FOR MEPC DEL

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR LE RO XF

SUBJECT: CEAUSESCU VISIT TO LEBANON

REF: TEL AVIV 928

SUMMARY: ROMANIAN PRES CEAUSECSCU VISITED LEBANON FEB 14-17,
EN ROUTE FROM LIBYA TO SYRIA. HIGHLIGHTS OF HIS
SOJOURN INCLUDED CORDIAL TALKS WITH TOP GOL OFFICIALS
AND MEETING WITH PLO CHIEF 'ARAFAT AND OTHER FEDAYEEN
LEADERS, ALL OF WHICH WERE MARKED BY REPEATED EXPRES-
SIONS OF ROMANIAN SUPPORT FOR TOTAL ISRAELI WITHDRAWAL
FROM OCCUPIED TERRITORIES, RESTORATION OF PALESTINIAN

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"RIGHTS" AND ESTABLISHMENT OF INDEPENDENT PALESTINIAN
STATE. END SUMMARY.

1. FIRST DAY OF CEAUSESCU VISIT TO LEBANON (FEB 14) WAS LARGELY DEVOTED TO CEREMONIAL ACTIVITIES, CULMINATING IN BANQUET HOSTED BY PRES FRANGIE AT PRESIDENTIAL PALACE. FOLLOWING BANQUET, HOWEVER, CEAUSESCU MET IN PALACE QUEST-WING WITH PLO CHAIRMAN 'ARAFAT, FATAH'S FAROUQ QADDUMI, SA'IQA'S ZOHAYR MUHSEN AND PDFLP'S YASIRRABDRABBU. CEAUSESCU INFORMED NEWSMEN AFTERWARDS THAT HIS TALK WITH FEDAYEEN LEADERS HAD BEEN FRIENDLY AND THAT THEY HAD RESPONDED POSITIVELY TO HIS URGINGS FOR GREATER FEDAYEEN AND PALESTINIAN UNITY AND FOR FEDAYEEN ACCEPTANCE OF CREATION OF INDEPENDENT PALESTINIAN STATE FOLLOWING ISRAELI WITHDRAWAL FROM OCCUPIED TERRITORIES. IN PRESS CONFERENCE HELD HERE FEB 16, CEAUSESCU EXPOUNDED ON SAME SUBJECT, SAYING "UNITY OF PALESTINIAN PEOPLE IS ESSENTIAL" AND CREATION OF INDEPENDENT PALESTINIAN STATE WOULD BE "A GOOD THING". HE OBSERVED, SOMEWHAT POINTEDLY, THAT "IT IS UP TO PALESTINIANS AND THEIR LEADERS TO DETERMINE THEIR OWN COURSES OF ACTION THAT WOULD PERMIT THEM TO ACHIEVE THIS GOAL". HE ADDED THAT SOLUTION OF PALESTINE QUESTION "IS ESSENTIAL TO ACHIEVEMENT OF JUST AND LASTING ME PEACE" AND THAT, IN HIS OPINION, "CREATION OF A PALESTINIAN STATE WOULD CREATE A NEW SITUATION WHICH WOULD CONTRIBUTE TO THE SEARCH FOR AN OVERALL SOLUTION OF THIS PROBLEM".

2. PLO (WAF) NEWS AGENCY REPORTED FEB 16 THAT CEAUSESCU HAD ASSURED FEDAYEEN THAT GOR RECOGNIZES PLO AS "RESPRESENTATIVE OF PALESTINIAN PEOPLE" AND INVITED IT TO PEN OFFICE IN BUCHAREST. ZOHAYR MUHSEN, IN INTER-VIEW PUBLISHED HERE FEB 16, SAID CEAUSESCU HAD OFFERED TO RECOGNIZE PLO AS PALESTINIAN GOVT-IN-EXILE "ONLY IF WE AGREE TO GO TO GENEVA", WHICH MUHSEN SAID WAS NOT POSSIBLE FOR TIME BEING. MUHSEN ALSO DENIED REPORTS THAT CEAUSESCU HAD OFFERED TO MEDIATE DIFFERENCES BETWEEN KING HUSSEIN AND FEDAYEEN IN ORDER TO ENSURE FEDAYEEN PARTICIPATION AT GENEVA CONFERENCE.

3. ON FEB 16, FOLLOWING TWO DAYS OF TALKS WITH PRESI-
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DENT FRANGIE AND SENIOR GOL OFFICIALS, CEAUSESCU TOLD PRESS CONFERENCE HE HAD FOUND GOR AND GOL SOLIDLY AGREED ON "NECESSITY OF EXERTING ALL OUR EFFORTS TO ACHIEVE JUST AND DURABLE ME PEACE ON BASIS OF UNSC RESOLUTIONS CALLING FOR ISRAELI WITHDRAWAL FROM OCCUPIED TERRITORIES AND FOR SOLUTION OF PROBLEM OF PALESTINIAN PEOPLE". "WE ALSO ARRIVED" HE SAID, "AT COMMON CON-CLUSIONS RE PROBLEMS OF EUROPEAN SECURITY AND OTHER ISSUES WHICH PREOCCUPY MANKIND, PARTICULARLY PROBLEM OF UNDER-DEVELOPMENT". CEAUSESCU EMPHASIZED GOR IS

ANXIOUS DEVELOP ITS RELATION WITH ALL NATIONS ON BASIS OF MUTUAL RESPECT, NON-INTERFERENCE AND PEACEFUL CO-EXISTENCE. "IT IS TRUE," HE ADDED, "THAT WE HAVE ACTIVELY SUPPORTED STRUGGLE BY NATIONAL LIBERATION MOVEMENTS AGAINST COLONIAL YOKE, THAT WE HAVE SUPPORTED THIRD-WORLD NATIONS AT THE UN, THAT ROMANIAN HAS SIMULTANEOUSLY IMPROVED HER RELATIONS WITH US, AND THAT SHE MAINTAINS GOOD RELATIONS WITH ISRAEL WHILE CALLING FOR ISRAELI WITHDRAWAL FROM OCCUPIED ARAB LANDS--BUT THESE THINGS ARE NOT AT ALL CONTRADICTORY. SEVERING DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS DOES NOT HELP TO SOLVE PROBLEMS BETWEEN STATES. MOREOVER, EXISTENCE OF SUCH RELATIONS DOES NOT ENTAIL TOTAL OR EVEN PARTIAL AGREEMENT WITH THEIR POLICIES... BUT IT DOES ASSIST IN SEARCH FOR SOLUTIONS TO VARIOUS PROBLEMS, SOLUTIONS BASED ON PEACEFUL COEXISTENCE".

4. JOINT LEBANESE-ROMANIAN COMMUNIQUE ISSUED UPON CEAUSESCU'S DEPARTURE FOR SYRIA FEB 17 STATED BOTH GOVTS HOPE GENEVA CONFERENCE WILL LEAD TO JUST PEACE SETTLEMENT, BUT NOTED THIS WOULD NOT HAPPEN "UNLESS ISRAEL WITHDRAWS FROM ALL OCCUPIED ARAB TERRITORY AND PALESTINE ISSUE IS SETTLED IN ACCORDANCE WITH LEGITIMATE NATIONAL ASPIRATIONS OF PALESTINIAN PEOPLE". COMMUNIQUE ALSO CONDEMNED USE OF FORCE IN CONDUCT OF INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS AND EXPRESSED SUPPORT FOR ALGERIAN INITIATIVE RE SPECIAL UNGA TO CONSIDER ENERGY CRISIS AND RAW MATERIALS.

5. CORDIAL TONE OF CEAUSESCU'S RECEPTION HERE WAS INTENSIFIED FEB 16 WHEN CEAUSESCU AND PRESS FRANGIE SIGNED SEVERAL MINOR BILATERAL AGREEMENTS CONCERNING TOURISM, LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
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CULTURAL EXCHANGES, AND TECHNICAL AID IN VETERINARY MEDICINE.

6. COMMENT: CEAUSESCU'S REMARKS RE PALESTINIAN STATE AND HIS MEETING WITH 'ARAFAT HAVE REALIZED ISRAELI FEARS REPORTED TEL AVIV 928. HOWEVER, WE TAKE HIS PRESS CONFERENCE REFERENCES TO "PEACEFUL COEXISTENCE" AND NEED TO MAINTAIN FRIENDLY RELATIONS WITH ALL AS SIGN HE WAS TRYING TO SOFTEN HIS PRO-PALESTINIAN UTTERANCES FOR ISRAELI CONSUMPTION. AS FAR AS LEBANESE ARE CONCERNED, CEAUSESCU'S VISIT IS BEING GENERALLY REGARDED AS PUBLIC RELATIONS SUCCESS IN TERMS OF MENDING HIS FENCES WITH ARABS. WE DOUBT HOWEVER THAT GOL--WHICH ITSELF WOULD LIKE TO GIVE IMPRESSION OF PLAYING MORE SIGNIFICANT ROLE IN SETTLEMENT PROCESS--ATTACHES MUCH IMPORTANCE TO ROMANIAN PRESIDENT'S APPARENT EFFORTS TO ASSUME SOME KIND OF INFLUENTIAL ROLE IN ME AFFAIRS.

DECON 2/20/75.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: REFUGEES, HEAD OF GOVERNMENT VISITS, MILITARY OCCUPIED AREAS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 20 FEB 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: morefirh
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974BEIRUT02092
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: n/a
From: BEIRUT
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19740222/aaaaautn.tel
Line Count: 171
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 4
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: TEL AVIV 928
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: morefirh
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 30 MAY 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <30 MAY 2002 by elyme>; APPROVED <10 JUN 2002 by morefirh>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: CEAUSESCU VISIT TO LEBANON
TAGS: PFOR, LE, RO, XF, IS, PLO, (CEAUSESCU, NICOLAE)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005